



# Cleveland National Forest

## Descanso Ranger District



## Cottonwood Creek Riparian Restoration Project

**T**he Descanso Ranger District of the Cleveland National Forest is undertaking a project to restore native riparian habitat on Cottonwood and La Posta Creeks along Buckman Springs Road.

**Phase I** - Remove non-native tamarisk trees that currently dominate the vegetation at the confluence of La Posta and Cottonwood Creeks.

Tamarisk is an aggressive invader of riparian areas in arid regions throughout the western United States. Not only does tamarisk replace native species and degrade habitat for local wildlife, it can also increase wildfire danger and reduces water quality by decreasing stream flows.

**Phase II** - Restore native habitat by replanting the area with native species, including willow and cottonwood trees and native meadow grasses like deergrass.



*Native vegetation recovering in a small area treated several years ago.*



*Tamarisk dominating large portion of the stream bed in the area.*



**Phase II** of the project is being completed with the help of funds donated by the California Garden Clubs, Inc. ([www.californiagardenclubs.org](http://www.californiagardenclubs.org)) and the Backcountry Land Trust of San Diego County ([www.bclt.org/](http://www.bclt.org/)).

When complete this project will improve habitat for wildlife (including federally endangered Arroyo toad, Least Bell's vireo and Southwestern Willow flycatcher), reduce the threat of wildfire and improve water quality downstream from the project site.

**Timeline**- Work will begin in October 2009. All the tamarisk in the area will be removed in the first year of the project with a follow-up treatment in 2010 to remove new tamarisk sprouts.

Project updates will be posted on the Cleveland National Forest website: [www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/cleveland)

**Need more information?** Contact: Lance Criley, Rangeland Management Specialist  
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